

BONSAI WIRE

March 2021

Volume 47 Issue 3

San Diego Bonsai Club

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

P.O. Box 86037 San Diego CA 92138



President's Message:

Sue Carter, President and CEO

Hello Fellow Club Members. It's in the air – optimism and enthusiasm for a return to our normal club activities. The days are getting warmer, along with the prospects of general club meetings, a Spring show, bonsai demonstrations and classes. Nothing official, yet, but we all hope the restrictions from the pandemic gradually will be lifted and life as we knew it can resume.

What tree would you grab? I hope you all got to watch Bob Hale's fun and informative video on repotting. It's up on our website and on YouTube if you haven't seen it or want to watch it again. There's lots of good information and tips. At the end of the presentation Bob does a tour of his lovely bonsai garden. During the tour Bob pointed out a twisted maple shohin he's particularly fond of that's over 40 years old and was originally planted by Gary Ishii's father. Bob said, "If there was a fire at my house, that's the one tree I would grab going out." That got me to thinking. If there was an evacuation and I could only save one of my trees, which one would I grab on my way out?

The art of bonsai is many things: design, technique, experience, science, patience, persistence, knowledge, dedication, just to name a few. But it's also a love affair. We fall in love with our trees, and we fret when they struggle and mourn when we lose them. Why?

Tell us about the tree you would grab on your way out of the fire. Send a picture of your tree and a short write up about it. It may not be the grandest or most beautiful tree in your collection or the most valuable, but it's the one you love the best. (If you absolutely can't choose a best, pick one and tell us why you love it.) Send your pic and story to Ron Kaelberer, rkaelberer@cox.net and Ron will post them on our website. Let's see how many beautiful love stories get shared by the end of this month. I definitely want to read yours.

Put a Little Love in Your Park To continue with the love theme of my message, here's a link to a feel-good video with Balboa Park in the background. Thank you, Barbara French-Lee, for sharing this. [Click here to open video link!](#)

Thank you, thank you, thank you I want to extend special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and the curators and liaisons of the Japanese Friendship Garden and Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. Thank you to Curator Neil Auwarter and Liaison Barbara French-Lee of the Japanese Friendship Garden. And to Curator John Jackson, Assistant Curator Dennis Wagner, and Liaison Lyn Stevenson of the Safari Park. These people, along with their teams of volunteers provide expert knowledge, unwavering dedication, and sometimes-Herculean efforts to maintain the health, safety and beauty of the trees and displays in these parks. Everyone in the San Diego Bonsai Club is extremely proud of our relationship with these world-renown jewels of San Diego and thank you for your service.



Do not follow the master's footsteps, but follow the light that guides him

News from our Gardens

see page 5

Feature Article see page 8

"Branch Moving Techniques" a continuation of wiring. *Part 1 was in the January issue*



Have a very good month and stay safe.



Education: Bill Graham, VP Education

Welcome to March and Happy St. Patrick's Day! Spring seems to be here! I have trees pushing new growth and starting to leaf out! Spring is my favorite time of the year. I love to look at deciduous trees as they leaf and say "Yes! Made it another year!" Repotting continues, we will be Springing Forward on March 14th, giving us a little more light in the afternoon. I for one am very happy about this. I get to see my trees in the light during the week for the first time since last November. Keep an eye on your trees, as we move forward and it starts to get warmer, your watering needs will increase.

Classes are still cancelled until further notice. Until then, there is great information to be found on the web at sites like

- Jonas Dupuich's website and blog <https://bonsaitonight.com>
- Ryan Neil's website <https://www.bonsaimirai.com>
- Bjorn Bjorholm's website <https://bjornbjorholm.com>
- Bonsai Nut website <https://www.bonsainut.com>
- Bonsai4Me website <http://bonsai4me.com/index.html>
- Bonsai Empire website <https://www.bonsaiempire.com> Information, tools and other bonsai related material
- Eastern Leaf website <https://www.easternleaf.com> by San Diego Bonsai Club member, Jason Chan.
- Walter Pall website <http://walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com>
- BonsaiHunk website. http://www.bonsaihunk.us/public_html/

I look forward to when we can meet again and resume our classes! If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share, please contact me at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com

Library: Sonya Holmquist, Librarian

*Bonsai pine in pot,
All its lustre and beauty
is in master's hand!*

This was part of the inscription to Richard Schassberger from John Yohsio Naka in his book *Bonsai Techniques II*, just one of a dozen books donated by Richard's son Eric. Thank you, Eric, for your generous donation.

Richard was a long time Club member and John Jackson remembers that he had a wonderful collection of pots. Fittingly, another of the books donated was *Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants*, a Chinese publication that reflects the integral place of the "pot" in bonsai. Selecting the right pot is always a challenge and while many books provide guidelines, including Naka's *Bonsai Techniques I* (another of the donated books) and more extensively in *Bonsai Techniques II*, it's a personal aesthetic choice. Looking through the many books and magazines in the Club's library is a good way to see how pots work with various styles of bonsai. Until we can meet again in Balboa Park, don't hesitate to ask me to get you some books or magazines.

Board Minutes: by Carla Marasco, Secretary

February 2021 The SDBC Board did not Meet



Teachers: Several San Diego Bonsai Club members have offered to teach bonsai. This service is independent of the Bonsai Club. Detailed background information for each teacher can be found on the club website under Education>Private Lessons. Contact the teacher for further details.

- Ken Bross, -Oceanside- anotherelf@cox.net
- Nazim Colak, San Marcos- nazimcolak@yahoo.com
- Ryan Haines, Hillcrest - ryanhaines88@yahoo.com,
- Gary Jones, Clairemont - twoopenhands@yahoo.com
- John Jackson, Lakeside - bonsaijohn@cox.net
- Fred Miyahara, SDSU area - tmiya@cox.net
- VanMoch Nguyen, Mira Mesa - vanmoch@gmail.com
- Christian Reha, Lemon Grove - christianreha@gmail.com
- Abe Far, Santee- abe_far@yahoo.com
- 'lyn Stevenson, Poway- inthegrove@cox.net
- Glenn Jensen, Encinitas - glenn@bajaphotographer.com)
- John Voss, Vista, 442-224-4423

Special Projects: Markel Farley, VP

Springtime is approaching. The San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Show is not guaranteed to take place in person this year. However, planning of the event is being discussed for a possible date of memorial weekend (May 29th & 30th). Members who would like to show or sell trees are requested to begin preparations. Please be on standby and ready to act if we receive approval to host the show at Balboa park. Volunteers will also be needed. Please remain on the lookout for future emails that will include additional information. Hopefully we will be able to host our amazing shows soon!



Reprinted from: BONSAI: Journal of the American Bonsai Society Spring 1989 Volume 23 Number 1



Thank You note from the Treasurer: Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

Thank you, members, for donations! Many of our members donated funds (a total of \$6,085 in 2020) to help the club through the year of COVID. We are extremely grateful for their generosity. We would like to acknowledge them with our heartfelt thanks:

Sue and Keith Carter, Cathy and Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John and Maggie Jackson, Jaya and Ron Kaelberer, Jim and Susan Kirchmer, Carla Marasco, Charlie and Sylvia Mosse, Sally Prestele, Harlan and Maryann Price, 'lyn and Jim Stevenson, Dennis and Kathy Wagner

Thanks also are due to Udaykant Pandey who orchestrated getting us a generous grant of \$2,250 from Qualcomm to support the Pavilion Pedestal Project and the numerous members who designated SDBC on Amazon Smile thus getting us \$172 in 2020.

Thank to Julia Chow and Carla Marasco for conducting a physical audit of the club's finance. The audit was performed at the Pavilion after completing our volunteer tasks. Six feet social distance was maintained, and mask worn – proof that even with Covid restrictions, life goes on. I brought my laptop and the hard copy documentation for all the months of 2020. Julia and Carla came prepared with tough questions! All questions were successfully answered. The audit was a success. (see results in February Bonsai Wire)

Membership: by Udaykant Pandey, VP Membership

Important Membership Update for 2021 This is the time of year the club normally asks members to renew their membership for the year.

However, because club activities are restricted (and will continue to be limited) because of COVID-19 pandemic, the SDBC Board has decided that all current memberships will be rolled over to 2021. If your membership is current, you won't need to worry about paying dues (\$30 for an individual membership, \$35 for family membership) for the next year.

The decision to forego charging to renew memberships does deprive the club of a major source of revenue. As you are aware, the club is unable to hold its other fund-raising events such as the two annual shows, auctions, and raffles, so there is limited income for our treasury. And we still have bills to pay.

To help keep the club financially strong, the club will continue to accept payment from those who would like to voluntarily submit their annual dues or make donations as a way of supporting the club through the pandemic. Please consider these options if you are able.

You can make payments through the club's website or by sending a check to the club at P.O. Box 86037, San Diego, CA 92138.

The Board appreciates your patience and understanding. We hope that at some point in 2021, the club will be able to resume its normal schedule of activities.

I would like to welcome following members who have joined the club since Oct 2020:

Thomas Burke, Marco Patino, Aaron Mathankeri, Jeffrey Schieferstein, Gina Makris, Sarah Krycia, Dale Reyes, Bruce Hubbard, Richard Kremenek and Christopher Schnese,

I would like to thank the following members who have renewed their membership for this year: Peter Amancio, Gerard Ellison, Paul Guidice, Gary Jones, Paul Lawrence, Carla Marasco, Susan Ronan, Mark & Nancy Walters,

Japanese Friendship Garden: Barbara

French Lee, Liaison

Thanks to Curator Neil Auwarter and Club Members Charlie Mosse and Aaron Mathenkari for their ongoing care of the bonsai collection at the JFG.

The Garden continues to be open daily. In March the free Tuesday is March 16th from 10-5. Their Cherry Blossom Festival will be held the weekends of March 3-5 and March 12-14. Check the JFG website, niwa.org. Hope you will be able to visit this beautiful garden and the SDBC bonsai collection soon.

On March 6, our Club member, Fred Miyahara, will present a workshop by Zoom for the JFG. We are now in the planning stages for the Club's participation in the summer program at the JFG. Traditionally we provide bonsai classes for students during their three-week camp in July. The classes range from first grade through high school. There will be three classes over three weeks divided by grade. Maximum number of students is 45.



Glen Jensen Pomegranate
in blue pot

Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park: 'Lyn

Stevenson, Liaison

Spring is almost officially here but weather wise we are being confused by very warm days and cool nights and a very dry February. . .we are in a bit of a dilemma, but our bonsai seem to be adjusting.



Large Oak donated by Al Nelson

Our access to workdays at the Pavilion continues to be limited but our volunteers have moved ahead with incredible accomplishments. A record number of repotting projects have been accomplished, lots of clearing of weeds have taken place, and all the bonsai pots on the pedestals have been cleaned and oiled. Bonsai volunteers all have special talents and are always ready to share them with each other. Some volunteers are more available for the heavier work as in removing and transplanting the really large bonsai, others have a knack for design ideas, some enjoy the fine weeding and moss planting, or pine needle plucking and de-candleing or have talent for cleaning and oiling the pots on the show pedestals. . .all necessary and important facets for keeping the Pavilion pristine. As an example of this work, here is a special message from Mark. . .

"The volunteers have been repotting especially diligently this year because last year the Pavilion was shut down in March, so we missed repotting several trees. This large Oak from Al Nelson was several years overdue, and we finally were able to finish the repotting at the end of February. The tree is very heavy, and it took all four volunteers (Steve, John, Dennis, Mark) to get it done. The empty pot took two people to safely move it. About 50% of the root ball was removed. Even though repotting was overdue the root ball still looked good. We have repotted 18 major trees and have seven trees left to do. "

Many thanks to all our February volunteers: Julia Chow, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Carla Marasco, Clare & Ron Roberts, 'lyn Stevenson, and Dennis Wagner.



Treasurers Report: Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT			
Jaya Kaelberer as of January 31, 2021			
Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements			
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES		Change from m/e December	
SDBC Checking	\$41,343	Decrease of \$341.77	
Japanese Friendship Garden	\$2,343		
Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$11,513		
TOTAL FUNDS:	\$55,200	Was \$55,542, Decrease of \$341.77	
SDBC Income	Actuals	Notes	budget
Total Donation Income			\$ 2,800
Total Education Income			\$ 5,400
Total Membership Income	\$150	4 single, 1 double	\$ 1,800
Guest Artist Workshops			\$ 800
Total Raffle & Auction			\$ 5,200
Spring and fall show income			\$ 3,000
Total Special Projects Income			\$ 1,000
Total Tool Sales			\$ 3,400
Total SDBC Income	\$150		\$23,400
SDBC Expenses		Notes	budget
Total Bonsai Pavilion			\$ 2,500
Donations and contributions			\$ -
Total Education	\$330	Cost of water, O,N,D 2020	\$ 5,220
Total Japanese Friendship Garden			\$ 500
Total Library			\$ 225
Total Mas Takanashi Grant			\$ 800
Total Membership			\$ 900
Total Monthly Program	\$70	Styling competition prizes	\$ 3,300
Total Newsletter	\$61	+\$39.87 newsletter printing, +\$20.99 Mailchimp fees	\$ 970
Total SDBC Club Expenses			
Total GSBF Liability Insurance			\$ 2,200
Other			\$ 2,050
San Diego Fair			\$ 65
Power of one scholarship			\$ 150
Total SDBC Spring Show			\$ -
Total Fall show			\$ 900
Total Special Projects			\$ 500
Total Taxes	\$31	O,N,D 2020 Sales tax	\$ 2,120
Total Tool Table Expenses			\$ 1,000
Total SDBC Expense	\$492		\$23,400
Net SDBC Income (Loss)	(\$342)		\$0

San Diego Club Board

President:	Sue Carter susangcarter2004@att.net
1st Vice President :	Ignacio De La Torre igdltx5@gmail.com
Secretary:	Carla Marasco adorebycarla@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jaya Kaelberer jaya.littletree@cox.net

VP Special Projects	Markel Farley Mr.Farley.M@gmail.com
VP Education:	Bill Graham wfgraham3rd@gmail.com
VP Membership:	Udaykant Pandey udaykant@gmail.com
Past President:	Barbara French-Lee barbflee@hotmail.com

Appointed Positions

Refreshment Coordinator:	TBD
Publicity:	Keith Carter kcarter315@att.net
Sunshine Chair:	Susan Baker baker@susanMbaker.com
Librarian & Historian:	Sonya Holmquist sonyaanneh@gmail.com
Tool Sales Manager:	Darryl & Christine Elmer droadie@sbcglobal.net Members

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Webmaster:	Ron Kaelberer rkaelberer@cox.net

Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:	Neil Auwarter neilauwarter@hotmail.com
Liaison :	Barbara French-Lee barbflee@hotmail.com

Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Curator:	John Jackson bonsaijohn@cox.net
Assistant Curator:	Dennis Wagner denisW@cox.net
Liaison :	'lyn Stevenson inthegrove@cox.net



Feature Article: Branch Moving Techniques By Carla Marasco, Cathy Edgar and Mark Edgar

In the January Bonsai Wire newsletter basic wiring techniques were summarized. The purpose of this article is to expand a bit on wiring, but mainly to present other ways to move branches including guy wires and various other techniques. The January article can be used for background for this article and for understanding wiring terminology. Much more detail on the techniques described below can be found from Ryan Neil on Bonsai Mirai Live.

Wiring a Single Branch

Hook Method

A single branch can be wired by using a nearby piece of deadwood to secure one end of the wire by hooking it around the deadwood. This is often used for larger structural branches and bigger gauges of wire.

Figure 1 shows a typical configuration for the hook method.



Figure 1

Wire splicing

Occasionally, a lone secondary or tertiary branch requires wiring after all other branches have been wired. The lone branches are usually smaller and require only light gauge wire (#14 - #18 copper). Wiring a lone branch can be done by splicing a wire underneath a larger existing wire. A point is cut on the end of the wire to splice and the end is pushed in between the larger existing wire and the bark of the tree (See **Figure 2**).

Sometimes it is helpful to look for a small gap between the larger wire and the tree. Once the smaller wire is secured under the larger, wire the lone branch can be wired as normal (see **Figure 2**). A second way to wire a lone branch is to secure the end of the lone wire by just following

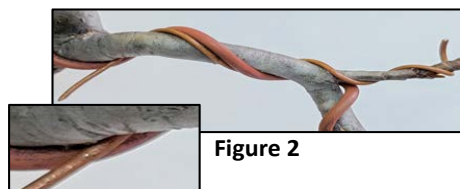


Figure 2

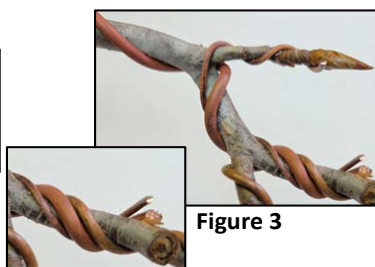


Figure 3

a larger wire on an adjacent branch for 2-3 turns to secure the end of the wire. Essentially, this is the same as splicing except

the smaller wire is not pushed under the larger wire and is left loose (see **Figure 3**).

Trunk Method to Wire Bifurcated Primary Branch

Position yourself so that the tip of the primary branch (the branch attached to the trunk) to be wired is pointing at you. The wire is wrapped behind the trunk so that one end of the wire is on each side of the primary branch. The wire on the left side is passed over the top of the branch turning clockwise and the

other end of the wire on the right side of the primary branch is passed under the branch and also turns clockwise (**Figure 4**). The wire on top of the branch is wired normally to the fork in the branch and continues onto the right fork of the branch (**Figure 5**). The second wire follows the first wire (without crossing, no gaps between the branch and the wire) to the left fork and then continues onto the left fork



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

(**Figure 6**). It is possible to do the opposite where the wire on the left side of the branch is placed under the branch and the wire on the right side is passed over the top of the branch. For this case all subsequent operations are the opposite of what is described above.

Wiring Small Branches in Close Proximity

Often when wiring junipers it is necessary to wire small branches to position the foliage. Wiring pairs of these small branches that are close together is tricky because the wire is not stable which causes one branch to move when the other is moved. One technique



Figure 7

is to use the structural wire to stabilize the smaller wire. To do this, the small wire is crossed over the top of the structural wire then used to wire both of the smaller branches. It is important to assure the small wire and the structural wire have good contact (**Figure 7**). An

alternative to going over the structural wire is to push the small wire between the structural wire and the branch rather than over the top. In either case it is necessary to stabilize the shoulder of the smaller branch during wiring

and bending. This technique takes practice to master.

and bending. This technique takes practice to master.

Wiring Miscellaneous

When wiring a branch with an existing curve or bend, the wire should touch the middle of the inside of



Figure 8

the curve, making the wire more functional with less gapping when a branch is being bent (See **Figure 8** for an example). The alternative, putting the wire so that it crosses the outside of the curve of the branch, does not help prevent branch breaking on the outside of the curve and the wire is less functional.

Important note: when bending a branch, take extra care to note if the branch has dead areas,

perhaps from dead secondary branches or other injuries to the branch. A branch is more sensitive to breakage if it is bent on or near those points.

Lastly, when bending a branch, the wire should be wound around the branch in the direction the branch will be moved (e.g. moving to the branch to the right, the wire is wound to the right). When moving the wired branch, the wire/branch unit should be twisted in the direction of the movement (also in the direction the wire is turning). This helps prevent breakage because the wire is tightened on the branch.

Using Raffia to Bend Bigger Branches

Bending bigger juniper branches can be facilitated by using raffia which is wrapped around the branch to provide compression to help prevent breakage. Raffia is made from palm tree leaves and is often used to make items such as mats or hula skirts. The dried fibers are around ¼" wide and perhaps 6' long. To use raffia for bonsai, several of the strands (7-10) are removed from the larger bundle and untangled. The individual strands are held together at one end and this end is knotted to bind the individual strands together. The grouped strands are coiled then placed in water to soak for an hour or two before using (**Figure 9a**, uncoiled dry strand on the left). The purpose of using wet raffia is that water acts as a



Figure 9a



Figure 9b



Figure 9c



Figure 9d

lubricant to allow the raffia to be more tightly applied. The wet bundles are uncoiled and completely untangled to form a free-hanging bundle (**Figure 9a**, right strand). The wet raffia is secured to the branch (**Figure 9b**, knot is subsequently cut off) to be bent then wound around the branch with about a 30% overlap. The stands of raffia should be held so that a solid ribbon is formed. This gives the applied raffia better strength and a neat appearance (**Figure 9c**). The finished end of the applied raffia is tied by taking 2 bundles of raffia strands made up of 2 individual strands of raffia, twisting the two bundles together near the branch, wrapping each bundle around the branch in opposite directions, twisting the two ends together once, wrapping the two ends back around the branch and tying a square knot (**Figure 9d**). The excess raffia is cut off. If wire is applied to the branch with raffia, the wire should turn in the

same direction as the raffia. Raffia is generally not used on pines. A comprehensive video can be found on Ryan Neil's Bonsai Mirai Live website (<https://live.bonsaimirai.com/library/video/raffia>).

Other Bending Techniques

Guy wires

Guy wires are a convenient way to move and hold a branch in a specific location. A branch can be wired first so that movement can be introduced along the the branch. A guy wire can be useful to further change the location of the branch. Using a double wire as the guy wire system works well and gives good control over the bending process. As a basic goal it is beneficial to anchor the guy wire to the tree rather than the pot. This keeps the force of bending within the tree rather than on the root system. Also, if the guy wire is anchored on the tree rather than the pot then the tree can be repotted without disturbing the guy wire.

It is convenient to use deadwood as an anchor point for a guy wire and junipers usually have many deadwood anchor points. To protect the branch of smaller trees, a guy wire can be inserted into a small diameter piece of tubing (or a piece of rubber padding can be used). The wire is looped over the branch to be bent then the ends are twisted over a piece of deadwood (**Figure 10**). The bending process is done slowly by hand-bending the branch and taking up the slack by twisting the wire with plyers. The branch should not be lowered by just pulling and twisting the wire. This does not control the stress on the bending branch and can cause breakage. The branch should be bent to generate slack in the wire. Only then should the wire be tightened to take up the slack. While bending the branch watch the bark on the part of the branch that is bending (outside portion of the bend). **Important:** when the bark starts to crack, the end of the bending process is near.

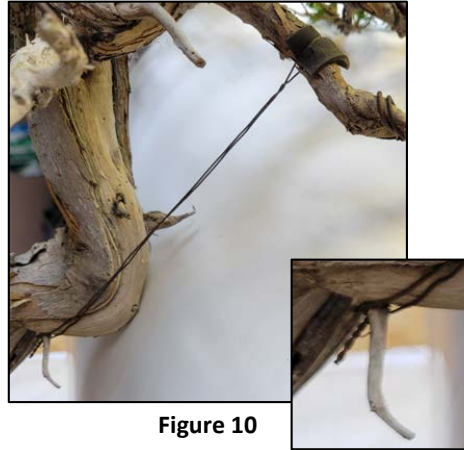


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

Many times the bending point is at the shoulder of the branch where it meets the trunk of the tree. This part of the branch is very susceptible to splitting and should be watched very carefully for signs of splitting. For bigger branches, it is probably better to use a piece of heavy rubber to cushion the wire on the branch. It is also possible to use a heavy root near the base of the tree to serve as an anchor point. If



Figure 12

the root is still alive then a cushion (tubing or rubber) should be used here as well. If the branch to be moved by a guy wire is already wired then the guy wire can be placed on top of the wire so that the wire on the branch cushions the guy wire (**Figure 11**). Another good guy wire anchor point on a wired branch is where the wire crosses near a fork in the branch. The guy wire is passed around the wire (near the fork) then over the crotch of the fork and down to the anchor point (**Figure 11**). No tubing or rubber is needed in this case.

If you don't like the way the double wire looks then it is easy to make the double wire appear to be a single wire. Just take a 1-2" length of thick wire or a chop stick, place it in between the two wires and twist. This will form a single strand (**Figure 12**) of twisted wire.

Changing the Bending Fulcrum Point on a Branch

As mentioned earlier, a branch is susceptible to tearing at the shoulder. One way to prevent the branch from tearing at the shoulder is to change where the branch is bent by changing the fulcrum point. This



Figure 13

can be done by placing a support farther out on the branch. **Figure 13** shows a small board between the branch (padded with rubber) and the surface of the soil. A guy wire on the left side of **Figure 13** is used to pull down the branch which bends at the point where the support touches the branch. (Note: the wire in front of the board is not part of this system. It is lowering a branch located elsewhere). The branch in this example was significantly bent, but the shoulder remained intact.

Rebar to Move a Branch

Many times a branch needs to be moved, but a guy wire is not possible because no guy wire holding point is available in the direction the branch needs to be move. In these cases, it is sometimes possible to use rebar to provide a holding point for a guy wire. A length of rebar can be secured on nearby branches with wire/zip ties and rubber padding. **Figure 14** shows how the rebar can be secured to strong trunks (middle and right side). The

guy wire between the end of the rebar and the branch to be moved forward (green rubber) can be seen on the left side. For small trees, a stainless steel all thread rod (1/4") can be used (**Figure 15**). This method is quick, easy and can be adapted to many situations.



Figure 14

to a point at each end with wire cutters. One pointed end is placed on the support area and the branch to be moved is carefully bent onto the other pointed end (Figure 16). The support branch is the larger trunk on the left. The two pointed ends pierce the bark which prevents the wire from moving (unlike a

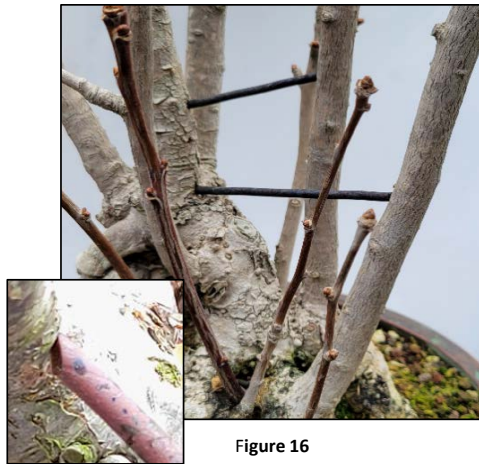


Figure 16

Separating Two Branches

Often, it is necessary to separate two branches. A simple, effective way to accomplish this is to use a piece of hardened copper wire. Depending on the size of the branch to be moved 12 to 8 gauge wire is convenient to use. The copper wire should be straight and hardened. An effective way to harden copper wire is to clamp one end in a vise and grip the other end with vise grips then twist the wire several times until it is hard. A long length of wire can be hardened then cut into shorter pieces for several applications. To use the hardened wire, the branch to be moved should be more pliable than the place on the tree that acts as the support for the wire. The distance of the required separation is estimated and the harden wire is cut



Figure 15

chopstick version would), but does not hurt the tree.

Weights

One of the most frequently asked questions at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion is why are rocks hanging from some of the larger landscape trees (**Figure 17**). The purpose of the rocks (or other weights) is to lower a branch without wire. Weights are easily applied and do not cause issue with wire biting in.



Figure 17



Please note: *The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published monthly by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) except for May. TBW and the SDBC logo are properties of SDBC. Articles are provided by SDBC members. Any articles submitted by non-SDBC members—if published—become property of SDBC. All submitted articles are subject to editing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the SDBC*